

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5341

S E C R E T AMMAN 5452

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EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECTION PARA 6)

FOR NEA/ATHERTON

E.VO. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS JO US

SUBJECT: AIR DEFENSE COMMAND AND CONTROL TEAM AND HUGHES

REF: STATE 189225 AND AMMAN 5394

1. APPRECIATE INFORMATION (REFSTATE TEL) ON HUGHES
PROBLEM HAS NOT YET BEEN RAISED AT HIGHER LEVEL BY GOJ
ALTHOUGH JAF INTERESTED IN "WHY" CONTINUES HIGH AT STAFF
LEVELS. IF RAISED WE WILL REPLY ALONG LINES PREVIOUSLY
WORKED OUT WITH DOSCH OF HUGHES THAT IT WAS NOT
COMMERCIALY FEASIBLE OR INTERESTING TO HUGHES. WE HAVE
INFORMED LOCAL REPS OF LITTON AND ITT OF
HUGHES PULLOUT, IN THAT THESE COMPANIES PREVIOUSLY
SENT REPTS TO AMMAN AND HAVE RECOMMENDED THEY
RETURN IN FORCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. AT LEAST FOR THE
TIME BEING AND IF POSSIBLE. WE BELIEVE THAT SEMINAR
ON BASIC AIR DEFENSE IS BEST LEFT IN THAT
CHANNEL. GIVEN DOD LIMITATIONS AND FACT THAT
CONTRACTORS PROBABLY HAVE MORE VARIED WORLD WIDE
EXPERIENCE WITH DIFFERING SYSTEMS THEY SEEM FROM
HERE TO BE BETTER EQUIPED TO WORK UP SEMINAR

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APPROPRIATE TO REQUIREMENTS ON SHORT NOTICE.

2. WE ARE VERY DISTURBED BY IMPLICATIONS HOWEVER OF PARA 3 REFTEL. WE ASK FOR AND WOULD DEEPLY APPRECIATE AN URGENT RE-EVALUATION IN STATE AND DEFENSE OF APPARENT DECISION TO WALK BACK OUR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE DOD TEAM HERE ON AUGUST 20. WE BELIEVE THERE MAY BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE TEAM IS SUPPOSED TO BE DOING HERE AND A LESS THAN FULL APPRECIATION OF THE IMPACT OF A NEGATIVE DECISION. WE UNDERSTAND DELICACY OF ISSUE WITH CONGRESS BUT BELIEVE THAT TEAMS WORK CAN BE EXPLAINED TO THEM AND IS ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH OUR PRESENT POSTURE OF NOT WITHDRAWING LETTERS OF OFFER, BUT CONTINUING TO RE SUBMIT THEM AT THE THE REQUEST OF SFRC.

3. OUR MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE TEAMS MISSION IS THAT IT IS HERE TO HELP JORDAN EVALUATE A PROPOSAL BY MARCONI OF ENGLAND OF RNA INTEGRATED CENTRALIZED AND AUTOMATED AIR DEFENSE COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM WHICH WOULD INCLUDE HAWK MISSILES IF THEY ARE SOLD TO JORDAN. THE MARCONI PROPOSAL IS DESIGNED TO LINK DATA FROM THE ADOC (AIR DEFENSE OPERATION CENTER) RADARS, ENEMY FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT AND SAM/AA WEAPONS. THE MARCONI PROPOSAL COULD BE ACCEPTED BY JAF WITH OR WITHOUT HAWK. THE PURPOSE OF THE US TEAM THEN IS TO ADVISE JAF AFTER ENTERING INTO DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WHEN MARCONI PRESENTS ITS PROPOSAL IN AMMAN ON AUGUST 20. JAF IS PAYING FOR US ADVICE TO ENSURE FUTURE COMPATIBILITY OF ITS COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM WITH HAWK, NOT TO PROCEED AS IF HAWK HAD BEEN ACCEPTED. JAF DOES NOT WANT TO MAKE THE MAJOR ERROR OF ACCEPTING THE MARCONI PROPOSAL AND AT A LATER DATE DISCOVERING THAT HAWK WHICH MAY BE SUBSEQUENTLY PROVIDED BY THE US CANNOT BE INTEGRATED INTO THE SYSTEM IN A MANNER THAT MAXIMIZES THE SYSTEMS' FULL CAPABILITIES.

4. AS IMPLIED PROVISION OF US TEAM IN NO WAY FURTHER COMMITS US TO SALE OF HAWK, FAILURE TO PROVIDE RAISES SPECIAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS BY RAISING QUESTION EXECUTIVE BRANCH CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO SALE. CONSIDERING THAT LOA HAS ALREADY BEEN PREPARED FOR HAWK AND THAT PRESENT CONTROVERSY REVOLVED AROUND HOW MANY NOT WHETHER TO PROVIDE HAWK BATTERIES TO JORDAN IT WOULD SEEM TO BE IN US AND JORDANS MUTUAL INTEREST TO ASSURE THAT COMMAND AND CONTROL MESHES WITH WHATEVER US SYSTEM

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MAY BE PROVIDED.

5. ARRANGEMENT FOR TEAM WAS WORKED OUT IN APRIL AND SUBSEQUENTLY RECONFIRMED. BACKING OUT NOW WOULD BE A REAL BREACH OF FAITH WHEN WE HAVE NOT HAD NEGATIVE DECISION ON HAWK. COUPLED WITH RECENT HUGHES DECISION REFERRED TO ABOVE AND ALREADY CONVEYED TO JORDAN. NOT TO PROVIDE A SEMINAR OR TO ENTER INTO COMPETITION WITH MARCONI GOJ IS LED TO CONCLUSION THAT THIS IS IN PART DECISION DIRECTED

BY USG.

6. IF IN YOUR JUDGEMENT WASHINGTON CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION ARE SO OVERWHELMING WE PROPOSE THAT WE MAKE AN HONEST ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE JORDANIANS TO DELAY MARCONI PRESENTATION PENDING A FINAL USG DECISION ON HAWKS. OUR ARGUMENT MIGHT BE THAT GOJ WOULD BE WASTING ITS FMS CASE MONEY ON OUR TEAM IF HAWK NOT PROVIDED OR THEY FOR SOME REASON DECIDED NOT TO ACCEPT IT, AND THAT THE TIME WASTED WILL NOT BE ALL THAT CRUCIAL. HOWEVER, IF ARRANGEMENTS FOR 20 AUGUST CONFERENCE WITH MARCONI CANNOT BE DELAYED AND GOJ IS FIRM IN ITS DESIRE TO PROCEED, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND THE TEAM AS ORIGINALLY AGREED AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE CLEAR TO GOJ WHEN WE TALK TO THEM ABOUT POSTPONEMENT. WE WOULD SEE NOTHING WRONG ALSO, IF DEPARTMENT THOUGHT IT VALUABLE TO BRIEFING A SELECTED NUMBER OF KEY SENATORS OR STAFFERS (REALIZE RECESS IS IN PROGRESS AND THIS MAY NOT BE EASY) ON PRESENCE OF TEAM IN JORDAN AND ITS PURPOSE OF EVALUATING MARCONI COMMAND AND CONTROL PROPOSAL IN ORDER TO REDUCE OR REMOVE IN THE CONGRESS ANY CHARGES OF BAD FAITH ON PART OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH. PICKERING

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